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INFORMATION CALENDAR

OFFICE OF INFORMATION • UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

June 2, 1945 No. 113

WAR ON THE "SUGAR RACKET". . . . A drastic program is under way to protect limited sugar supplies for the use of legitimate home canners by putting an end to a "sugar racket" developing in some parts of the country. Price Administrator Bowles said in announcing the program that there is enough sugar to meet our full home canning requirements but that there will not be enough if the chiseling of home canning sugar for other purposes continues.

OPA hopes to successfully combat the sugar racket are: (1) Having all those applying for home canning sugar sign a pledge to use the sugar for canning only; to furnish a report on the number of quarts canned with the sugar, etc., and to return the equivalent in sugar stamps of any of the sugar not actually used for canning to their local War Price and Rationing Boards; (2) OPA local boards will suspend issuance of ration stamps for home canning in areas where fruit and vegetables are not available; (3) Issuance will be suspended in other areas to give local boards time to more carefully process applications on file and to give district offices an opportunity to revise their quotas if necessary; (4) A vigorous campaign will be carried on against the diversion of home canning sugar into bootleg liquor or illicit bottling.

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AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . May 25 the House Appropriations Committee reported a joint resolution making recision in several appropriations including 2 million dollars of the item for WFA salaries and expenses. May 26, the House passed the bill to continue the trade agreements program (not yet acted upon by the Senate). May 28 the Senate completed Congressional action on a bill providing for farm machinery priorities in the flood areas (this bill is now pending for Presidential action); both Houses agreed to the conference report on a bill authorizing additional appropriations for Extension work (this bill is now pending for Presidential action); the House passed a bill continuing RFC subsidies on flour, meat, and butter. May 30 the House received from the President a supplemental appropriation estimate for REA salaries and expenses and a proposed authorization for REA to borrow 160 million dollars additional from RFC. May 31, the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee reported favorably the nomination of Clinton P. Anderson to be Secretary of Agriculture; the Senate Military Affairs Committee reported a resolution directing it to investigate surplus property disposal.

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CLINTON ANDERSON TO BE HEARD ON KOB. . . . On June 11, Station KOB (NBC network at Albuquerque, New Mexico, will present its first broadcast of an expanded farm service program. A special feature will be a 5-minute transcribed broadcast by Clinton P. Anderson, Albuquerque being Mr. Anderson's home town.

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MEETINGS ON RECONVERSION OF THE COTTON SOUTH SCHEDULED. . . .Meetings have been scheduled in June by three of the Regional Committees on Post-war Programs, at which reconversion of the cotton South will be discussed. Places and dates for the meetings are: Dallas--South Central Region--June 12 and 13; Atlanta--Southeast Region--June 15 and 16; Knoxville--Appalachian Region--June 18 and 19. The Regions cover 14 States. State Extension Directors, State Experiment Station Directors, deans and heads of agricultural economics departments of the Land-Grant Colleges and others from the schools will attend the meetings. The following Department representatives from Washington will also attend, each prepared to take part in discussion of different phases of the subject: Mordecai Ezekiel, S. S. Elliott, Henry Jarrett, and Sherman Johnson, all of BAE, and H. H. Williamson of Extension Service.

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A.B.A. BANKS URGED TO COMBAT FARM LAND INFLATION. . . . C. W. Bailey, Chairman of the Agricultural Commission of American Bankers Association, recently sent a memo to all member banks urging them to do all they can to help prevent further inflation in farm land prices. He told them that by March 1, 1945, the increases during this war ranged from 17 percent in N. Dakota to 96 percent in South Carolina and that new data concerning this situation should have the attention of all banks. "The problem of inflation will be lessened," according to Mr. Bailey, "to the extent that surplus money in the hands of farmers is used to buy War Bonds instead of farm land at high prices. We as lenders can do much by following conservative policies of financing. Speculative debts should be opposed by every means at our command."

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ANOTHER TIMELY FARM TOPICS PLATTER will be cut June 5. One side will contain a dramatization on fat salvage in farm homes entitled "Tallow Talks." A discussion of the need for harvesting more legume seeds and an explanation of the special Triple-A program to help farmers increase their production will be voiced on the other side of the platter by Al Bond of the Radio Service and a Triple-A official. The three important seeds are alfalfa, alsike, and red clover.

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PLENTIFUL FOODS FOR JULY. . . .Cabbage, tomatoes, carrots, and peaches are expected to be in plentiful supply throughout the greater part of the United States during July. Dry-mix soups; dry edible peas; soya flour; grits, and flakes; wheat flour; macaroni, spaghetti, noodles; and oatmeal will be readily available. Apple butter; citrus marmalade; jellies; and grape, plum, and fig jams continue in good supply. Liberal supplies of locally grown vegetables will be available in most parts of the country.

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CONSUMER TIME CELEBRATES 12th ANNIVERSARY. . . .On June 9 a program celebrating its 12th anniversary will be dramatized on the Consumer Time show, 12:15 p.m., EWT. The broadcast will include interesting excerpts from past Consumer Time shows. On June 16, the latest story on the milk situation will be told.

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OPA UPS WHEAT CEILINGS. . . .Producers' ceilings for the 1945 wheat crop has been increased 3-1/8 cents a bushel by OPA, effective May 30, 1945. A reduction of two cents a bushel was put into effect in the discount for "Sample Grade" wheat.

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PEACH PROMOTION PROGRAM. . . .An intensive promotion program is underway to make maximum use of peaches for home canning and fresh use in all sections of the country. The largest peach crop on record--4 percent above the previous peak year, 1941--is reported for 10 southern States this year. The bulk of the crop, amounting to 16 million bushels compared to about 9 million bushels for the 10-year average, is concentrated in Georgia and the Carolinas. Shipments from these 3 States will begin to arrive on the market about June 9 and continue through July. Carlot shipments are expected to be double those of last year. Approximately 85 to 90 percent of rail shipments of southern peaches in 1944 were from these States.

Commercial processing and local sales outlets within the area of production in the 3 southern States will be utilized to the fullest extent possible, but will absorb only a small part of the surplus expected. The fact that commercially canned fruits will be short this year with point values probably high, should induce greater home canning of peaches.

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BOX BUSINESS. . . .The shift of the war to the Pacific has increased container requirements for military use. Supplies now must be re-packaged in Europe and shipped to bases in the Pacific, and those shipped directly from the United States travel more than 6,000 miles to Manila, still 2,000 miles from Japan. Of the 72,000,000 corrugated and solid fiber boxes and interior containers manufactured in March, 54,000,000 were needed for overseas shipments. Secure and waterproof packaging is necessary, since in many instances supplies must be floated ashore and kept in the open, exposed to tropical storms.

Meanwhile, mill inventories of pulpwood have seriously declined. This points up the need for the conservation of containers for civilian uses in this country and the salvaging of those unfit for use for wastepaper drives.

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USDA RELEASES OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. . . .Wage ceilings set for picking peas in Oregon and Idaho--967; U. S. and Canada have mutual harvest aid arrangement--984; Thirty-three plants to receive "A" awards-994; 1944 wheat loan extended--997; 1945 wheat loan program--999; Why we need more gardens and home canning--1001; Farm labor placements increase but more needed--1002 Chinch bugs are threat to grain crops--1003.

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OTHER RELEASES OF AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE. . . .New method of establishing base prices for dressed hogs--OPA-5610; Tire quotas for June announced--OPA-5602; Dairy products regulation amended--OPA-5606; Country shipping point ceilings for early apples increased--OPA-5616; Ceiling prices proposed for 1945 crop of late white potatoes amended--OPA-5612; June quotas of new 1942 cards announced--OPA-5615; Few changes made in consumer point values for processed foods during June--OPA-5619; Grower prices for apricots for canning and freezing and for dried apricots--OWI-4470; Producers' ceilings for 1945 wheat crop increased--OPA-5620.

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FARM MACHINERY RESTRICTIONS EASED. . . .Quota restrictions on the production of farm machinery up to July 1, when all such restrictions on the industry under L-257-c will be removed, have been eased for the month of June under Direction 7 to L-257.

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MEAT DISTRIBUTION AND ANTI-BLACK MARKET ACTIVITIES. . . .Yesterday Price Administrator Bowles announced the issuance of an order requiring all slaughterers to ship to all counties the same proportion of meat that they shipped during the first quarter of 1944, which was considered a reasonably normal period. The order will be effective upon its appearance in the Federal Register.

In a report to members of Congress on May 30, Administrator Bowles outlined other steps that had been taken by OPA to improve meat distribution and to combat meat black markets. A significant step referred to was the cancellation as of May 4, of licenses previously issued to 26,436 non-federally inspected commercial slaughterers and then required to apply to OPA district office for new licenses with individual quotas. By May 25, only 15,220 of these slaughteres had registered with OPA for their quotas.

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INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE. . . .Among problems of world-wide significance to be taken up at the third Inter-American Conference on Agriculture at Caracas, Venezuela, beginning July 24, will be: Increased agricultural production by farmers of the Western Hemisphere toward better diets and a generally higher living standard; the problems facing producers of cotton, wheat, coffee, and other crops important in world trade; post-war markets for such tropical crops as quinine and rubber which are certain to face keen competition from pre-war sources of supply and synthetics; and better methods of marketing and transporting crop and livestock products in the post-war period.

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TRANSPORTATION HELD SHIFTED. . . .Beginning July 1 War Food Administration will discontinue giving assistance to farmers on applications for truck tires, tractor tires for replacement and conversion, new trucks and off-highway gasoline. Office of Price Administration and Office of Defense Transportation will after June 30 handle all farmers' problems in the fields outlined without assistance or recommendations from Triple-A committees. Reason for this change is that funds will be unavailable for this work by WFA beginning with the new fiscal year.

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DDT MAY BE USED ON SPUDS IN OREGON. . . .Because of the importance of potatoes in the food program the WFA has requested that a limited amount of the best commercial grade of DDT be made available in Oregon for use against the potato tuber flea beetle. WPB has granted the request and says that the use of DDT against this insect is restricted to Oregon because it is the only area where severe damage to the tuber cannot be prevented by materials used elsewhere, such as calcium arsenate or cryolite.

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"INDUSTRIAL FEEDING MANAGEMENT" is the title of a 46-page booklet recently prepared by the Committee on the Nutrition of Industrial Workers of the National Research Council, in collaboration with WFA. Copies of the booklet can be obtained free from the Office of Information while they last; it is for sale by the Government Printing Office at 10 cents per copy. Ask for NFC-14.

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